

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

In the specification, the paragraphs objected to by the Examiner have been amended to correct minor editorial problems, and to make the specification consistent with the drawings.

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-22 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled.

The examiner objects to figures 19 and 22 for having reference signs not mentioned in the description. The specification has been amended to include the subject reference signs, making the objection moot.

The examiner objected to claims 2, 5-9, 12, 14, 17-18, and 21-22 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 5, 7, 12, 17, 21 & 22 have been put into independent format, and thus are allowable. Accordingly, claims 6, 8, and 18, are no longer dependent upon a rejected parent claim, and thus are also allowable.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens *et al.* (U.S. 5,583,565) in view of Kawai *et al.* (U.S. application no. 2002/0067412) and further in view of Sengupta *et al.* (U.S. 6,359,647). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has had the limitations of claim 2 added to it, and thus is allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 13 has had the limitations of claim 14 added to it, and thus is also allowable as indicated by the Examiner. The remaining claims are now dependent upon an allowable parent claim, and thus are allowable for at least the reasons the parent claim is allowable.

The Examiner has requested filing of the priority document. Enclosed is a copy of the date stamped return postcard indicating receipt of the certified copy of

Japanese Patent Application No. HEi. 11-109341 on June 22, 2000 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. A copy of the transmittal letter and the certified copy is also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32584.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 21, 2004